

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes March 25, 2014

Attendees: Michelle Betram-ADRC, Karen Cumblad-James Place, Regina Estrada- Blessings in a Backpack, Julie Frahman-Muskego Food Pantry, Tammy Grauer- Energy Services, Ellyn McKenzie- Waukesha Community Health Center, Mary Jo Michels - WIC, Karen O'Leary- Hope Center, Carol Rogers- National Centers for Learning Excellence Inc, Jen Sundberg- The Women's Center Waukesha, Karen Tredwell- Food Pantry of Waukesha County, Bob Weiland- Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church (ECUMC), Ashleigh Woda-Siena House, Rachel Zuniga-Hispanic Health Resource Center, Jan Skell, Melinda Stuart, Interns: Jamie Zach, Danielle Knutilla- UW-Extension

Welcome and Introductions: Karen Tredwell

Presentation:

Workforce Development Center (WDC)-Changes and Current Programs - Beth Norris, Operations Coordinator --

WDC is a *One-Stop* center for multiple agencies that assist with employment and other job related needs. It is located on the bus route on the southeast corner of the Pewaukee WCTC campus in a stand-alone building with three flag poles in front. The center is open 8 am-4:30 pm to all members of the community as a walk-in center similar to a library. The focus is on working with local businesses and 'in-demand' industries that will provide a decent wage with a short training time. There are a large number of workshops and boot camp type trainings that are offered including classes on updating computer skills. Spanish speaking clients are referred to the Downtown WCTC campus for services. There will be a job fair on May 14th at WCTC that provides a great opportunity to increase knowledge on the job market. For detailed information and a listing of workshops please see their website www.wfdc.org. For more information, Beth can be contacted at 414-840-5342 or bnorris1@WCTC.edu

Agency Updates

Energy Services- Tammy Grauer – The state allocated extra funds for the propane shortage which stopped vendor overcharges. Disconnections will begin April 15th. Customers should connect with energy services now to work on payment plans and assistance to avoid disconnection and the waiting period to be reconnected. There is only \$60,000 left in crisis funding compared to the usual \$100,000 at this time of year. Those with a large balance or repeated disconnects may be asked for a large down payment. Supplemental funding is not available this year. Furnace repair and replacement is available for income eligible. Contact Energy Assistance first, they will arrange for state vendors to be used to provide repair or replacement. 1-800-506-5596 for an appointment, 262-549-9666. If already applied but need crisis assistance - email at TGrauer@esiwi.com. Staff can do presentations for agencies.

Head Start- Carol Rogers- 90% of families using the half-day program are at 100% of poverty level. Two hour 4 year old Kindergarten is also available. Combined Head Start and 4K provides no charge for child care from 8:30 am - 6:00 pm for families who are income eligible. Recruitment will begin in early July accepting children age 3 as of September 3rd. Oconomowoc location is struggling to fill its 34 openings. In-home program to provide help with parenting skills is available for children under age 3. For information call 262-548-8080.

Blessings in a Backpack- Regina Estrada- Provides food for children on weekends to families that qualify for free and reduced cost lunch. Now serving 590 kids at Hadfield, Banting, and Lowell Elementary Schools. 4500 kids in Waukesha County are eligible for the self-funded program. Volunteers are needed for bag filling and Friday morning distributions.

Siena (Hebron) House- Ashleigh Woda- The Emergency Response(Overflow) shelter will be closing on April 30th and no location is available for next year. There are still funds available for rent assistance, rapid housing, and homeless prevention. All shelters are full. Contact Wendy Banicki case manager at 262-522-1401.

ECUMC- Bob Weiland- Representing Emmanuel Community United Methodist Church in Menominee Falls sponsoring a food pantry and interested in helping families have access to additional resources.

Muskego Food Pantry- Julie Frahman- Scouting for Hunger Boy Scout Food Drive was last week and currently meeting with American Cancer Society about Relay For Life Sponsorship.

Women's Center- Jen Sundberg- Shelter is full and stress is high now that tax refunds have been exhausted. Anniversary luncheon will be held May 2nd at the Italian Community Center.

Waukesha Community Health Center- Ellyn McKenzie- Increased Pediatric capacity with some walk-ins now available. Behavioral Services for ages 6 and older being provided. Alcohol and drug abuse counseling will be available starting May 7th.

James Place- Karen Cumblad- Now open Monday evenings. Providing computer help, assistance applying for government cell phones, and job seeking resources.

Food Pantry of Waukesha County-Karen Tredwell- Thriving alliance is looking at gaps in transportation services and nonprofit funding. Agencies are encouraged to contact Kathy Gail at Interfaith, Rusty Borkin at Common Ground, and United Way about transportation of clients. The Food Pantry is now providing Bereavement Baskets to families wishing to serve a meal for 10-15 people following a memorial service. Families must be referred by a funeral home.

UWEX- Intern Jamie Zach-*Member Spotlight* interviews have been completed with James Place and Hispanic Health Resource Center. Next agencies on list will be contacted soon. Please sign up if interested for interview. Spotlights will go on the WCNC web page.

Melinda Stuart- the May 7th Poverty Simulation at Parklawn Elementary in Oconomowoc has been recently cancelled. An organization called Bridge Builders helped with some of the building of Mukwonago's Resource Center building project and they are looking for more work for their volunteers (house painting, fixing steps, dry wall, etc).

Jan Skell- Writing WNEP grants and will be contacting agencies about working together next year and signing grant forms.

Next Coalition Meeting-Administration Center-G55-59, April 22, 2014 9 am
Topic: NuGenesis Farm and Programs